

Māori Storytelling & Oral Tradition — Knowledge Organiser

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Key facts

- Māori did not traditionally use writing to record knowledge.
- Instead, history and stories were passed on by speaking, singing and carving.
- Elders played a key role in teaching the young.
- This is called an oral tradition.

Key vocabulary

- Oral tradition — passing on knowledge by speaking.
- Whakapapa — genealogy, or family history.
- Elder — a respected older person.
- Generation — people born around the same time.

Keeping knowledge alive

Through careful storytelling, song and carving, Māori passed down history, genealogy and learning across many generations.

Valuing memory

In an oral tradition, a good memory and skilled storytelling were highly valued ways of keeping knowledge alive.